

**From:** Josh Sonnenfeld, Save The Bay <josh@savesfbay.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:31 PM  
**To:** Ziegler, Sam  
**Subject:** Salt Pond Update: 2013 Year in Review

Cargill isn't backing down

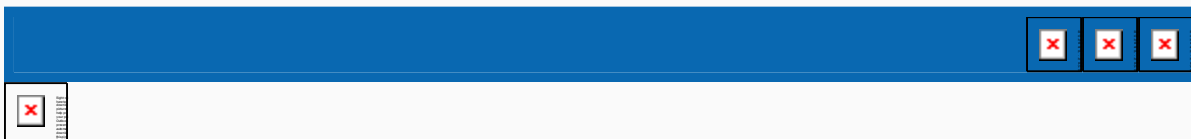


Photo by Dan Sullivan

## Salt Pond Update: 2013 Year in Review

Sam:

As we enter the new year, two square miles of the Bay remains at risk in Redwood City.

It's been a year and a half since you helped Save The Bay and a broad coalition of environmental organizations, community groups, elected officials, and others defeat Cargill's initial proposal to build as many as 12,000 houses atop restorable salt ponds in Redwood City.

**Still, Cargill is unwilling to back away** from its intent to submit a revised development proposal for the site, let alone sell the salt ponds so they can be restored and included in the Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Instead, Cargill has pressured the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to grant an ["exemption" from the Clean Water Act](#), which would make it easier for Cargill to get permits to develop the site. **Insider sources tell us that in recent months Cargill has ramped up its lobbying efforts in Washington D.C.**

Thousands of you have called on the Army Corps and the EPA to stand up for the Bay and not let Cargill get out of basic environmental regulations that protect the health of our great estuary. The federal agencies have yet to make a decision, but thanks to you, we know they are hearing us.

Overall, there's hope for the long-term health of the Bay. Every day the Bay Area moves further and further away from Cargill's archaic plans to pave the Bay:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a long-awaited blueprint to restore the Bay's wetlands. Called the Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan, this federal report [specifically calls for](#) the protection and restoration of Redwood City's salt ponds.
- Through the recently adopted Plan Bay Area, the region has chosen to move away from sprawl, focusing future development near transit, in already urbanized areas. Cargill tried to undermine this plan at the last minute, [threatening regional agencies](#) with legal action unless the Redwood City ponds were listed as "urbanized," but we beat them back before it was too late.
- As sea levels continue to rise, policymakers throughout the state are beginning to realize that we need to protect the infrastructure we already have – not put more people

at risk. San Mateo County's recent [sea level rise summit](#) shows this message is getting through.

- Finally, the historic restoration of the Bay continues at a rapid pace, as thousands of acres of the shoreline are returned back to Bay wetlands. The restoration of former salt ponds in the North Bay [demonstrate what's possible in Redwood City](#), if only Cargill is willing to cooperate.

None of this progress could happen without our members and supporters. You've signed our petitions, shared our actions with your friends, donated, and helped us continue to lead this campaign that is shaping the future of the Bay. We'll keep you updated as we continue this important fight in the new year.

Thanks for your support,

Josh Sonnenfeld  
Campaign Manager

P.S. Curious to learn more about the nearly 25,000 shorebirds that use the Redwood City salt ponds annually? [View our Birds of the Redwood City Salt Ponds slideshow.](#)

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